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broadsheet²



SEX DIFFERENCES

Child-care Centres

Consciousness~

Raising

SECONDARY TEACHERS
COLLEGE, AUCKLAND
LIBRARY

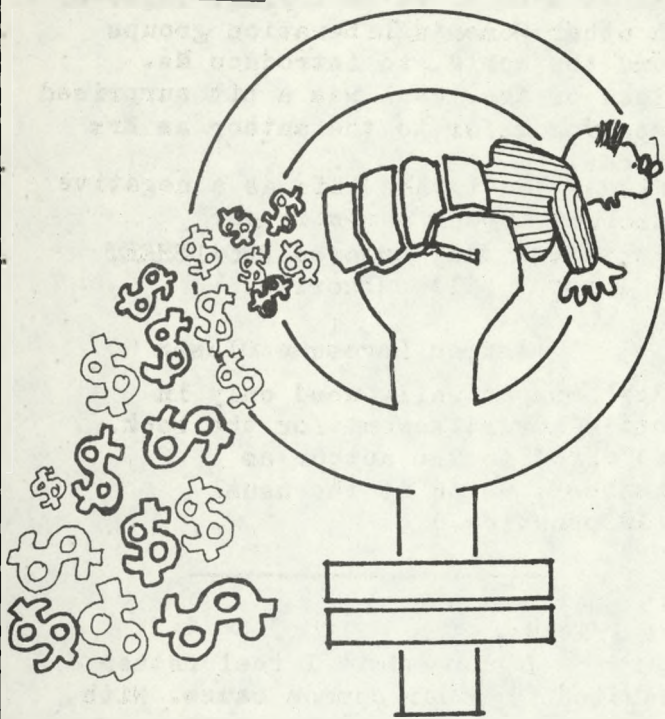


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WOMEN'S LIBERATION, AUCKLAND AUGUST

EDITORIAL

EQUAL PAY



Opinion: A woman's place is in the home (trad).

Fact: 37% of New Zealand women between the ages of 15 and 64 work. 46% of the female work force is made up of married women (Labour Dept. estimates 1970 and 1972)

Opinion: "Where do you find work carried out by both men and women where the end result is equal?" (Sir James Wattie. 8 O'Clock July 29 1972)

Fact: Anywhere you find an employer who provides the same training services and incentives to both sexes and often under adverse conditions.

BROADSHEET opinion: Sir J.W. is pea-brained.

Opinion: "I trained a girl in my office and she left after 10 months. Women employees aren't worth training." (Auckland Accountant.)

Fact: Three male trainees left in the same period. (Apparently not worth mentioning.)

Opinion: A man should be paid more: after all he supports a family. (Trad)

Fact: A man has never been paid according to the number of dependants he has: a single man earns as much as a man with ten children for the same job. The female work force includes thousands of solo mothers supporting families and single women supporting relatives.

Opinion: Women aren't so badly off: I know several women who earn almost as much as I do. (Local M.C.P.)

Fact: The average female wage rate is 30% lower than the average male wage rate.

Equal pay for equal work is a basic human right so far largely reserved for male humans in New Zealand.

The Commission of Inquiry into Equal Pay in New Zealand recommended in September 1971 that Equal Pay should be introduced in five equal stages over five years beginning in April 1973. The Equal Pay Bill is due to be passed in this year's parliamentary session, and the expected howls of anguish from the Employers' Federation and individual manufacturers are gaining great coverage in the daily press.

To women the position is clear: the full recommendations of the Commission's Report must be accepted when the Bill comes before Parliament.

Job evaluation and classification to decide the rate for a job (whichever sex undertakes it) must be established. The unions, who will work out these rates with the employers, may flinch at the enormity of this task, but it is time they worked hard for their thousands of women union members. So far unions have paid only lip service to the principle of equal pay. In recent awards of two female intensive unions the disparity between female and male wage rates widened - in one case women received 5% less of the total wage bill than before.

Equal Pay must be applied to 'actual' rates of pay rather than award rates. The eagerness with which some employers suggest their willingness to provide equal pay on award rates makes it clear that this can only be a bad thing for women. The wide disparity in pay rates would still exist under this system.

These and other protective provisions recommended in the report are essential if equal pay is to be anything but a token gesture.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Equal pay will not mean equal opportunity for women, although it is a basic step on the path towards it.

Many women have been conditioned into thinking their work is of secondary importance, and social attitudes continually reinforce this feeling. The Commission's report summarises the problems which effect the economic advancement of women.

"The effect of family and social obligations, lower educational qualifications, lack of specialised training, lack of retraining facilities (and) the more limited participation in union activity ... restrict the employment opportunities of women."

We must work to change the social attitudes as well as the practical obstacles which at present bar many women from interesting and well-paid jobs.

Kitty Wishart.

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Letters

Collective for Women,
 Dunedin.

Dear Broadsheet,

I really liked the articles in BROADSHEET and was particularly interested in one review of Pat Grimshaw's book. We're trying, together with other Women's Liberation groups around the world, to introduce Ms. instead of Mrs, so I was a bit surprised to see you refer to the author as Mrs Grimshaw.

Please don't take this as a negative criticism. Other women in our Collective really enjoyed BROADSHEET and, I hope, will subscribe.

Andree Levesque Olesen

("Mrs" was actually used only in Oxford's advertisement for the book. We referred to the author as "Grimshaw", which is the usual review practice.)

Dear Friends,

I must admit I feel rather alienated from our common cause. With other members of the University Liberation group. I was amazed by some 'comments' in the magazine. Why the suggestive, derogatory name? So far I have only received smug laughter.

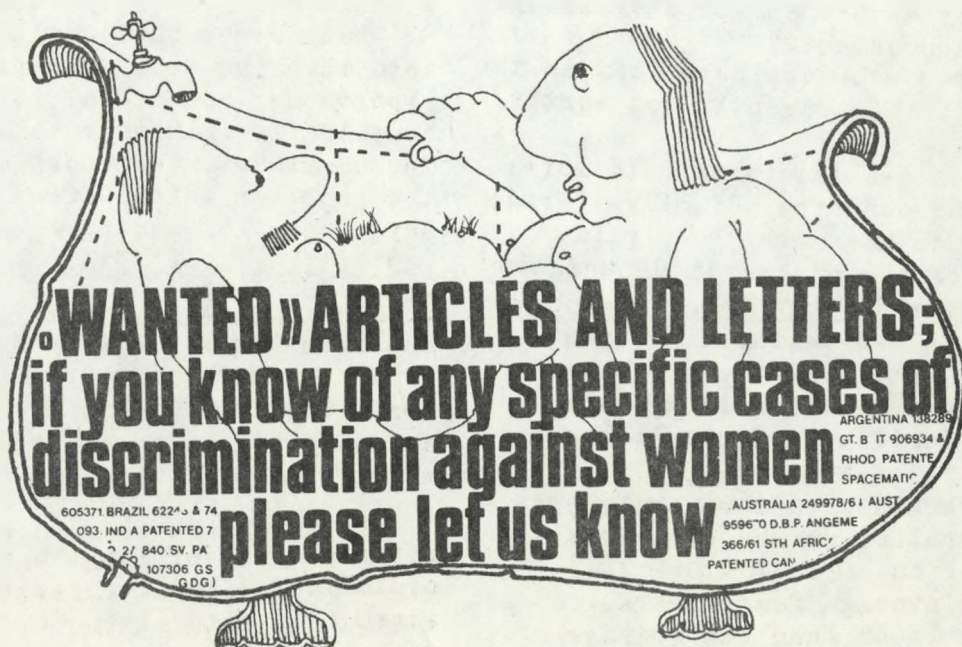
On merely looking through the dictionary, I have hopefully suggested alternatives with the hope that others have too:

Redeem, Exemplar, Rising Up, Ad Lib, Climax, Redress, Re-edition, Reflection, Reflux.

Why do you label the magazine our 'baby' - as if we do not have enough 'maternal instinct' thrust upon us! Sorry this is only complaints - but I do feel the idea is vital.

Hope that you can hear more from our Varsity group.

Mary Crotty.



broadsheet report

Auckland Womens Liberation

Next fortnightly meetings will be held on 22nd August and 5th Sept at 7.30 p.m. at the ~~University Creche~~, 30 Wynyard St, City. Any new members welcome. Individual groups are now working on specific topics.

The

Abortion and Contraception Group is part of the way towards setting up their centre for young girls. The Family Planning Association is right behind the group and is offering professional advice to girls referred to them by the centre. Rooms must be found next.

The Public Relations group has already talked to a number of schools and more speaking engagements have been arranged. Members are preparing papers on all aspects of Women's Liberation, with facts and figures, so speakers have all the information on hand to draw on when preparing talks and answering questions.

The Equal Pay and Opportunity group has appointed two delegates to the Equal Pay and Opportunity Council. A strongly worded letter has been sent to the Prime Minister demanding that the Equal Pay Bill be passed this year and that the provisions recommended by the Commission of Inquiry be fully implemented. We have prepared a two page action sheet on Equal Pay for distribution to city and suburban shops in early August, urging shop assistants (most of whom are women) to become fully involved in the issue.

The Newspaper Group is alive and well. Our thanks to all those who sent subscriptions, letters, news and reactions - keep it coming! We have now over fifty paid up subscriptions and are looking into getting BROADSHEET printed more impressively as soon as possible. (One man called it 'A crudely printed paper read only by the initiated few'.... oh well, you can't win them all!)

The Legal Group is suffering from a lack of qualified members. Lawyers and law students where are you? The group is working on gathering information on discriminatory legislation.

For further information ring:

Sandra Coney 687887

Sharyn Cederman 74974

or write to BROADSHEET or
Auckland Women's Liberation
P.O. Box 5341
Auckland

Women for Equality

Meetings are now held each Monday at 10 Ponsonby Rd starting at 7.30p.m. The Group organised the Abortion March down Queen St on July 28. Guerilla theatre depicting why women want abortions and a back-street abortion was put on in Vulcan Lane. About 150 people took part in the March and many stayed for the rally in the Ellen Melville Hall. There, Toni Church talked about abortion and the gathering then split up into groups to discuss possible action which could be taken to bring about the repeal of the laws. Out of this meeting an Action Committee of interested people has been formed. The Action Committee (permanent name yet to be decided) has already met once and a further meeting is to be held on Thursday 17th August at the University Student Union Building at 7p.m. Anyone interested in fighting for "a woman's right to choose" should come along and lend a hand.

Women for Equality is also working on the Equal Pay issue and is collating all the information collected during the Equal Pay Seminars they held earlier in the year.

For further information Ph 769 560

Women Against the War

Women Against the War had a great success on their all-night vigil on Thursday 13th July. About 150 people stayed outside the A.M.P. building to show their opposition to the war in Indo-China. Many leaflets were given out and a spokeswoman was interviewed on the 7 o'clock news.

Behind the women's banner on Mobe night were a good number of people and militant women's slogans could be heard clearly. Over 800 Women Against the War armbands were sold and many donations were received. The woman speaker at the rally, Deidre McCartin, called on women to support strongly the feminist movement. She was interrupted with loud applause when she asked women to unite on issues which affected women and show their strength in numbers. We, as a group, feel that we have helped to raise the feminist consciousness through the issue of the War, and have decided to continue working with our sisters to promote action on women's issues and strengthen the feminist movement.

We meet every Monday at 7.30
at 14 Whittaker Place.

Cathy J Carroll.

University Group

We had a slow start at the beginning of the year and a changing membership, but recently the group has been more stable. We organised a petition protesting against the lack of finance and adequate space at the University Creche and a lot of interest was raised with the result that it became an election issue. We have worked towards equal pay for Students' Association staff but so far this has not been achieved.

Recently we have been working quite closely with Women for Equality particularly on the abortion issue. We arranged a seminar, held a stall providing information and supported the abortion march.

A message to all interested people: we meet in Room 202 every Tuesday from 1-2, and to those who came earlier and were discouraged by the lack of action, come again as it's all starting to happen.

For further information
Ph: Kim Papakura 87841

Other Auckland Groups are:

NOW P.O.Box 2946 Auckland 1

Auckland Organisation for Women
P.O.Box 5198 Auckland
Ph: 762 876

Wellington

Membership for this current year now stands at forty nine, and we are now an incorporated society, thanks to the efforts of the past committee, especially the secretary. We, together with other Women's Liberation groups, have been approached by Alistair Taylor for literary contributions to his proposed 'Whole Earth Catalogue', and we are submitting three publications, one being 'Perspective on Abortion' (on sale for 10c) and 'Consolidation', for use as he sees fit. His book is due in October.

We also run a library for member's use at the Thrift Bookshop, Willis St. Consciousness raising is also under way.

Our child care centre, Te Kainga, is free and voluntary, its particular concern unmarried and working mothers. The waiting list grows and grows. We need more help; donations or other assistance to Te Kainga, 39 Arthur St., Wellington 1. Wellington Organisation for Women. P.O. Box 662 Wellington. Ph 787 784

Dunedin

At the moment we are having a once a week six-week course, each meeting being devoted to one specific topic. We are printing a paper on each topic to sell afterwards. After this we will break up into small groups again. We are giving talks about twice a week to Plunket, Rotary, and so on.

We have some non-sexist children's books for sale, published by the Feminist Press at \$1.50. These are:

Challenge to become a Doctor:
the story of Elizabeth
Blackwell L.L. Heyn
(9 - 13 yrs)
Elizabeth Barrett Browning
M.J. Lupton
(High school age)

We're expecting also

The Doctor and the Dragon
for pre-schoolers. Please write if you would like these.

Many of us have registered to vote as Ms. Some did not have any difficulty. Others got a letter saying 'we know you are married, etc.....'

We are helping a group formed by unmarried mothers, and they wrote one issue of our newsheet.

Dunedin Collective for Women
P.O.Box 446 Dunedin

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

The two original CR groups started by Auckland Women's Liberation have just finished and below we publish views from some of those who participated. Our CR groups met weekly to talk about our own personal experiences on a variety of subjects. CR makes us see through our own experience and those of other women our common oppression; and that this oppression is the result of the rule of male supremacy in our society. Overcoming this oppression demands collective action by women on behalf of all women. It is hoped that this action will follow from CR.

Consciousness raising will help you:

- Clean out your head
- Release and redirect your anger
- Understand other women
- Discover that your personal problem is not only yours.

A new CR group is underway and a fourth will be started shortly. If you would like to take part ring Sharyn Cederman, Phone 74-974 evenings.

"For me personally, the most immediate effect of the sessions was the relief of discovering other women with widely differing backgrounds, experiences, interests and attitudes from my own, who have shared for some time my concern "that all is not well with the state of women", and who have had a strong desire to change this state. My belief in my own identity has been restored through exchange of experiences and ideas, and above all mutual support.

Running a close second has been the luxury of being able to talk directly and honestly about my own feelings of oppression in an atmosphere of mutual acceptance - without fear of judgement or reproach. This was vital in helping us to clarify feelings and attitudes and it was reflected in the way that we all developed a greater degree of openness and coherence as our confidence in ourselves and trust in each other developed with each new meeting.

Closely related to this has been the chance to gain a much deeper insight into the varied roles which women must fit into. As a married woman without children my sympathy for and understanding of women in different situations has been heightened. In turn, this has increased my tolerance of many women because I have had a chance to understand how and why they are as they are.

On the other hand, I have now become less tolerant of the many injustices which are constantly perpetuated against all women. Previously it was possible to gloss over the situations which did not affect me directly. Now every woman's plight is my concern.

I believe that our group has been highly successful. We are learning to present and defend our ideas more skilfully against attack and above all we have carried our confidence into the group at large by actively participating in workshops, public speaking and social issues."

Jackie

"I was apprehensive about attending a Consciousness Raising group. The name put me off - I thought it was pretentious (I don't now - the name describes exactly what happens) but I felt conscience-bound to give it a try. In the past I have joined a number of other 'worthy causes' but have always been an early drop-out - after spending some time wondering why I was there.

The Women's Liberation Movement is the first such 'cause' I have felt 'at home' with and I am sure that this is directly related to the consciousness-raising experience.

We had a list of topics such as- How do you feel about housework?, menstruation?, growing old?, were you treated differently from your brothers? and we worked through these topics- each woman in turn commenting on her own experience and feelings.

This sharing of experience has made me more politically aware (using the definition of 'politics' which Kate Millett uses - power structured relationships - arrangements whereby one group of persons is controlled by another). It has certainly made me feel a greater commitment to the ideals of Womens' Liberation.

One of the things most of us commented on at the end was a greater sense of being at ease with ourselves, more sureness over what we are doing and decisions we are making with respect to our own lives.

However I don't think a consciousness-raising group is therapeutic (in the curative and problem-solving sense) but it does give support and a feeling of solidarity.

One of our last topics was where do we go from here? We decided to continue meeting as a group as there are still many areas that we can explore and still much support we can give to each other. Also we enjoy each others company."

Sandra

SEX DIFFERENCES:

a psychological view



Psychologists have done a great deal of research on the intellectual and personality differences between men and women, much of it centred on trying to discover whether such differences are culturally or genetically caused.

INTELLECTUAL DIFFERENCES

When we consider sex differences in intellectual performance we run into difficulties because many I.Q. tests are constructed specifically to eliminate such differences. This is because people do not agree as to what exactly constitutes intelligence. It is held to be a mixture of several different abilities, and, since girls tend to do better on verbally oriented tests and boys on mathematical or spatial ones, the tests are made up with a careful mixture of questions that results in girls averaging the same as boys. In case you think that this was done to appease the feminists, let me point out that on earlier, less sophisticated intelligence tests which had a preponderance of verbal items, girls did better than boys, which must have been cause for alarm.

There is not sufficient evidence to conclude that the differences between men and women in these intellectual abilities have any biological basis. It seems obvious that boys are encouraged to develop any mathematical or mechanical interests they may have; also, girls do as well as boys at these things before the ages of seven or eight, when cultural pressures are weaker. It is not quite so obvious what cultural factors would cause female superiority in language. Girls learn to talk earlier than boys, and they have far fewer speech defects. It is possible that their more rapid physical development during infancy may give them earlier control of the muscles used for producing speech. But in our society this verbal superiority persists right through life. However, studies which show that Negro and Hawaiian Chinese boys are better linguistically than their female counterparts suggest that the differences between men and women in verbal ability may have no biological basis.

One commonly held belief is that, although the average intelligence of men and women is the same, men's intelligence scores spread over a greater range. In other words, there are more male imbeciles and more male geniuses. The evidence for this view

seems spurious. It is based, on the one hand, on the fact that there are more male admissions to institutions for the retarded and to special school classes for backward children. But a psychologist who examined mental defectives admitted to a particular institution found that, on the average the women who were admitted were more retarded than the men. The probable explanation of these findings is that women who are moderately retarded are not so likely to be admitted as men because people do not notice them. A female moron can get married or do housework for a living. It also seems that families are more likely to care for a defective girl at home than a boy. Stupidity is not such a crime in women as in men. Society expects it.

The differential admission rates to special classes in schools seems to be partly because teachers may often find it easier to handle a retarded girl in an ordinary class than a boy, because the girl is likely to be quieter and more obedient. This means that some girls may be missing out on the specialist help that they need.

At the other end of the scale, it has been pointed out that there are far more eminent men than women. True, but the cultural causes of this phenomenon are obvious. The famous Stanford Gifted Children Study has also been cited as evidence, as it was made up of children with I.Q.s of over 140, and included 857 boys and only 671 girls. The probable cause of this discrepancy is that children were selected by teachers recommending those of their pupils who they thought showed exceptional ability. They recommended more boys than girls. It seems as if teachers are not as likely to recognise giftedness in their girl pupils as in their boys. When intelligence tests are given to large numbers of children, there are just as many girls as boys with outstanding results.

When we compare sex differences in tests of academic performance rather than intellectual ability, we find that girls generally average higher marks than boys until the age of about 15, when the trend is reversed. It is commonly thought that, because girls develop faster than boys physically, their intellectual development must also be more rapid, so that it is



unfair to compare boys with girls of the same age. This theory is not borne out by the results of intelligence tests - the difference is only in academic achievement, and is probably caused by the personality characteristics the girls are encouraged to develop. A well-behaved, submissive, conforming person is more likely to do well in our educational system than a rowdy, aggressive, domineering one. However, in senior high school and university, conformity may not be such a useful characteristic, although a very intelligent conformist can still last the course right through until some original research is demanded of her. Of course, by the time girls are reaching higher educational levels, many of them are losing their motivation to continue because they are being forced into the female stereotype, and this is probably the main reason why boys overtake them in academic achievement at this stage.

Anyway, as George Eliot said, 'I'm not denyin' the women are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men.'

PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES

There are many well-documented sex differences in personality in our society, but evidence from other cultures suggests that they have no innate basis, with the exception of one trait - aggressiveness. Although the difference between the sexes in aggressiveness is probably quite exaggerated by cultural influences, it does seem to be inevitable. Male aggressiveness can be observed right through the animal kingdom, and is thought to be caused by the action of the male sex hormones. More evidence for this view comes from men with an unusual genetic defect in the chromosomes which determine sex. Normal people have only two of these chromosomes; women have two 'X' chromosomes and men have one 'X' and one 'Y'. But a few men have one 'X' and two 'Y' chromosomes - in a sense they are 'extra male'. A surprisingly large proportion of these abnormal men commit crimes of violence, which suggests that the male 'Y' chromosome brings about some mechanism causing aggressiveness.

However, I must emphasize that I have been using the word 'aggressive' as a synonym for 'violent'. We cannot infer from this evidence that women are naturally less ambitious, or less pushy. For instance, while male rats fight more, female rats are less timid and more active. Violent

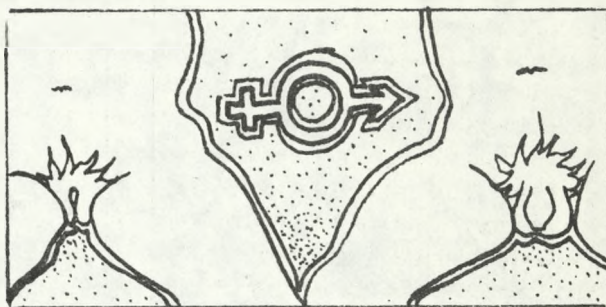
behaviour may have been useful in an evolutionary sense to cavemen, but we can certainly do without it now.

Studies on neurotic personality traits show that no differences between the sexes arise before adolescence, but from then on there are more neurotic women than men. No wonder, considering the role they are expected to play in society.

Experiments on stress show that women are more reactive to it, but on the other hand, they recover more quickly than men.

It must be emphasized that wherever differences between men and women have been found to occur in psychological traits, they are average differences only. For instance, there are many women who have greater mechanical ability than the average man, and many men who have greater verbal ability than the average woman. Knowing what sex a person is does not tell us a thing about their intellect, intellectual abilities or their personality.

Hilary Haines.



POEM

women have borne men
since the dawn of time
it is now starting to dawn on women
to bear men no longer

Valery Smith.

Back Benchers

If you miss me at the back of the school, it is because of the experiment I conducted on my class of 24 Mangere six year olds (twelve girls and twelve boys). It was a phys. ed. lesson - unpremeditated but very revealing. After the usual departmental preamble of warming and limbering up activities we launched into a vaguer part of the syllabus known as Movement and Exploration.

The equipment - 15 benches

The instructions - Girls: get together and decide what you are going to make with the benches. Build it, and when I blow the whistle come and tell me what you made. Boys: you do the same.

The results - the boys made a complex system of interlocking mountains and valleys, slides, aeroplane hangars, in short a veritable fun farm. The girls placed their benches in a block, each

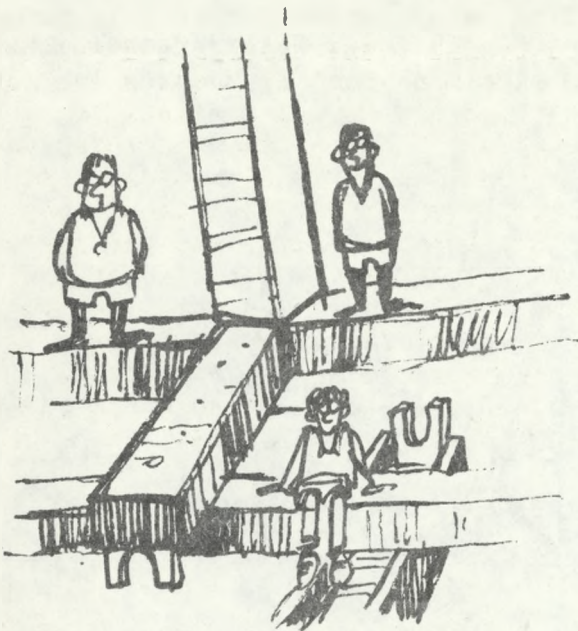
bench an equal distance apart and then placed two benches on top of the platform. They then proceeded to wrangle about the fact that the boys had one more bench than they did.

After the whistle was blown the girls had no idea what they had built. They had become quite uninterested in the structure and far more concerned with the discrepancy in the number of seats. One girl saved the situation - we made a castle! The boys had become totally involved in their structure and it was very hard calling them away. Their ideas were varied:

we made slides!
we made a park!
we made a see-saw!
we made a hangar!

For the remaining twenty minutes of school the children drew and read. I sat at my desk and gazed across the playing field at the white washing billowing on the rotary clothes lines, the nylon curtains twitching against the venetian blinds, the whole panorama unbroken by a single shrub. If I looked vacant - I was just wondering.

Hilary Knight.



PUT THEM STRAIGHT

Philippa Thakur has just returned from America where she says people have stopped sniggering at Women's Liberation and are treating it as a serious topic.

I came home expecting big changes. After just three weeks of TV watching and Herald reading, my only conclusion can be that the media are still at the Cliche stage, which is even more primitive than the Snigger stage. Here on the back page is a large picture of a man and a woman in bridal array holding a dead pheasant. The caption reads "A Bird in Hand and One To Go." Another day, on the front page this time, there's

Miss NZ sitting on the knee of the Mayor of Onehunga. The amazing thing is that the Herald still finds this tripe acceptable.

One other oddity that strikes me is the apparent obsession with "love is.. Funny the way some curiosity about this elusive definition makes me interested in the love life of those sexless cartoon dolls. Funny too the way they're always on the women's page. Funny, too the way there is often an unseen premise. Thus: "love is ... letting him read the newspaper first." (Yes, baby, every day of your life.)

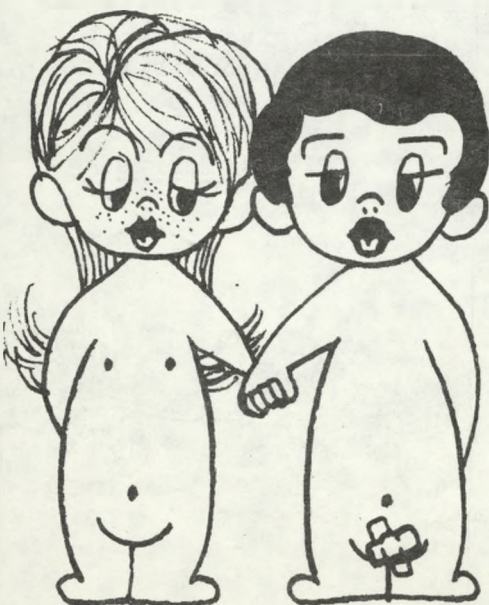
Kicking Against the Pricks

British Town Councils are tackling the problem of unwanted babies in practical ways. Free contraceptives are being doled out and some councils are giving contraceptives to under 16 year olds. Extra incentives are free taxi rides and commercials on cinema screens. One council in an effort to get at the males has a poster showing the bottom half of a guy in jeans with the message "You always put a guard around the fire at bedtime, don't you?" Maybe one day our Councils will get off their council seats and do likewise. Meanwhile such services (like most of those vital to women) are left to voluntary organisations who usually suffer from a lack of funds.

Not so progressive is the reaction in the UK to the popularity of vasectomy as an effective male means of birth control. Some doctors are apparently trying to get wives to talk their husbands out of it by pointing out to them that "sterilisation may make the husband promiscuous". Shouldn't husbands be given the same advice when their wives go onto the pill?

And while on the subject of birth control, the Consumers' Institute publication "Contraceptives" (available only to their members unfortunately) advises that if you have diarrhoea or vomiting for more than a day while taking the pill, use some other contraceptive method as well for the rest of that month and for a week into the next cycle.

love is ...



...telling her you'll have a vasectomy.

Apparently it is becoming common for NZ firms to follow the invidious American practice of checking up on prospective 'employees' wives before giving them 'executive' status jobs. As well as being blamed for everything else that goes wrong in the nuclear family it now appears wives are going to take the rap when their husbands dip out on jobs. The Auckland firm of Studio Elle have started an "Executive Wives Course" to ensure that women don't balls up their husbands' success. Their advert read "Behind every successful man, there's a successful wife." "If they (the wives) are socially groomed for top level entertaining the husband has a far better chance of advancement. So, are you going to be a help to your husband's career?" The road to success cost \$48 and they threw in a graduation ceremony for that. When I rang and expressed interest the Studio told me there hadn't been much interest (when I suggested a creche to allow 'executive' mothers to attend, the person I was speaking to laughed) so maybe NZ women aren't as gullible as Studio Elle thinks they are. You usually find men are behind these enterprises which aim to make money out of women's lack of self confidence and feelings of inadequacy, but in this case two women are among the five directors. Bonita Blows (yes it's her real name) and Dianne Leaming, two women who presumably have carved out reasonable careers in their own rights, are now happy to go along with a course which gives advice contrary to their own experience. I wonder if there is a successful husband behind Bonita and Dianne.

The Abortion March on Friday 28 was marred by an incident when a crippled guy walked part of the way down Queen St in front of us carrying a banner saying "Abortion is Murder". I hope the man's action was a spontaneous one and that he was not put up to it by SPUC. We thought it was pretty sick as are the slides SPUC members show in schools (of buckets full of fetuses etc.) There is nothing like a good clean fight.

Sandra Coney



CHILD CARE CENTRES ONE MAN'S VIEW

Bill Morris and his wife Maureen run what we think is an excellent day care centre; it is licensed to take up to thirty children. Broadsheet asked Bill for his views on such centres; here they are.

A parent faced with the situation of requiring day care for their child has several alternatives; grandparents, friends, neighbours, voluntary organisations, factory creches, unregistered day care centres catering for small numbers of children, or registered nurseries, privately run and regularly inspected by child welfare officers.

Prior to my wife and I opening our own day nursery we tried out several of the above alternatives. Our experience of running a busy nursery has shown that grandparents love their grandchildren visiting them. However, when the visit is for five consecutive week days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., then their enjoyment of their grandchildren - which I believe is their right - turns cold. Relations, friends and neighbours are all right occasionally, or for a short period, but invariably the bogey of unreliability prevents a long term arrangement.

Mothers willing to look after a limited number of children may seem at first the ideal form of child care for the working mother - in theory it is. In practice, I wonder. These questions spring to mind. Who watches the children when the mother surrogate answers the door, the phone, or an individual sick or distressed child? What type of stimulating environment can such a harassed, overworked soul present? What quality of child care can she give?

To me, the solution of child care for children from two to five is a day nursery, catering for from fifteen to forty children. You ask what of the under two years group. I am not really sure at this time but it would seem to me through reading and experience that the only solution is for individual mother care. Certainly this would sometimes call for sacrifices and economic hardship; however, if it is the child we are interested in, research shows that this is by far the best solution.

Concerning the two years to five years group with which I am most familiar, it is important to stress

that some children are ready to enter nursery before age two. We have two children aged eighteen months in our care now who relate well with the other children. However, when we have a child aged two and a half or three years who is unable to cope with the nursery situation, we advise the mother - or father - that their child is just not ready for nursery.

During the time that I have been deeply involved in child care, I have naturally developed a philosophy towards it which is under constant review. In my opinion pre-school children should not be subjected to an institutionalized type situation. For this reason I have some reservations concerning factory creches which are normally situated in the "shadow of the factory chimney", somewhat divorced from a residential atmosphere.

The ideal day care centre needs to be an extension of home. Sally, who was with us two years, said, "It's my other home, Mummy, but I don't clean my teeth there." There needs to be a constant Mother and Father figure and all the staff need to be known as Auntie and Uncle, for after all it is merely an enlarged family situation.

If we have enjoyed any success it is because we have stressed the need for all involved in our nursery to give love to the children. The cuddle, the sit on the knee, the kiss on the cheek and hug - all these help with those pre-school frustrations. Children need love and perhaps more than anything else that is what a day care centre must give when it takes over some responsibility from mother.

Bill Morris



REVIEW

Woman's Estate

Juliet Mitchell
Pelican 1971

Juliet Mitchell was born in N.Z. but has lived in England since the age of four. She is an editor of 'New Left Review' and a member of the London Women's Liberation Workshop. Her book attempts to outline the theory and rise of the Women's Liberation Movement, and to explain why and how it arose in our time. She makes a useful and clear distinction between what she sees as the two main groups in the movement: the Radical Feminists who are more explicitly anti-male, seeing men as the oppressors from whom women must be freed; and the Abstract Socialists, who blame the capitalist system, and who want to liberate every one from this to become 'whole people'. Mitchell states, very sensibly, that 'Both positions are possibly right together, both are certainly wrong apart ... the battle is premature.'

The clearest and most impressive section of the book is that dealing with the history and aims of the modern movement. When Mitchell moves into the general theory behind the movement as a whole, she is going over ground which Kate Millett and others have more ably and comprehensively covered before. The book becomes confusing, too full of jargon, and rather clinical, and the references to actual situations fail to alter this impression. However, this book is important reading, at least in its earlier sections, for those who wish to gain an overall picture of the origins and development of the movement today.

The Captive Wife

Hannah Gavron
Pelican 1966

Dual Career Families

Robert and Rhona Rapoport
Pelican 1971

Both these books are simplified versions of professional sociological research. Gavron presents an excellent introduction, in 'Social and Historical Background', which contains one of the best summaries of historical and legal changes in woman's position as

wife and mother that I have found. This is invaluable material for those asked to speak about the movement. The middle section consists of the survey itself, and contains rather a large number of statistics. It is necessary to mentally translate these back into human terms for their impact to come across. Gavron made some surprising discoveries in studying these 'conflicts of housebound mothers,' as she calls it; for instance, many working class men are nearly as housebound in the evening as their wives, since television replaced more social, all-male gatherings at the pub. The myth of the unhelpful working class male is also exploded; a sizeably larger proportion of working- than middle- class men share all housework and child care.

In the end the book fails to capture the essence of what it means to be a housebound mother. The figures and summaries fail to come alive. The closing section incorporates suggestions for "re-integrating" the mother into society, but these are so tentative and mild (creches in shops, mother's clubs) as to be virtually useless. The roots of the problem are never reached at all.

Dual Career Families also presents a survey, but a very different one. Here are in depth studies of five families where the mother as well as the father is committed to a challenging full time career. These English upper middle class couples in their forties have constructed what is definitely an unusual life pattern, and one which, given the 'norms' of society, is often very difficult to maintain. Fascinating as the individual studies are, the book's main importance lies in the introduction and summary. The authors note that the husbands, although 'helpful' in the main, still leave all responsibility for running the household to their wives; and in a week's diary given by one couple, architects in partnership together, this difference is obvious. He spends the morning in the office, she shops, sorts laundry, cleans the bathroom, and fits in an article. The women in these families are exceptional; they need to be, to cope with the double load as well as they do. Only one husband is really involved in the housework; the others act quite conventionally, feeling perhaps that their noble acquiescence in their wives' careers is all that is required. P.T.O.

Certainly we see that dual career families are possible, if you have what it takes, and they may even become the norm eventually. But just the possession of a career does not in itself liberate women - far from it. As far as the movement is concerned, as this book proves, this is just not where it's at.

Anne Else.

coming events

Seminar "Women in the Modern World"

W.E.A. is conducting this seminar on Women's Suffrage Day, Saturday Sept 16 from 9.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. at the Great Northern Hotel. Cost for seminar and lunch is \$2.25 per head or 50c for the seminar alone.

Speakers and topics (in alphabetical order) :

Dr Ruth Black "Contraception as a Social Problem"
 Prof. Merie Clay "Woman as Solo Parent"
 Susan Kedgley "Women in N.Z. Politics"
 Kath Knight "An Active Role for Women in International Affairs"
 Sheila McMillan "Women & Education"
 June Phillips "Childcare in the Community"
 Connie Purdue "Social Equality for N.Z. Women"
 Shalima Vuibau "The Double Burden Maori Women Bear".

For further information and tickets ring W.E.A. Ph: 769 664 between 12 and 2.30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



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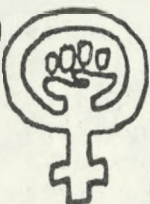
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